

Message Text

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12

ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /011 R

DRAFTED BY S/S-O:JSNYDER

8/29/73 21512

APPROVED BY S/S-O: W. NEWLIN

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R 300156Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T STATE 172673

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:

TAGS:

SUBJECT:

JULY 19, 1973 FROM JIDDA IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE SECRET

JIDDA 3012 EXDIS:

DHAHRAN PASS CHUSMTM

TAGS: MASS, SA, YE

SUBJECT: OPERATION TRIANGLE: MODERNIZATION OF YEMENI

AIR FORCE

REF: A. JIDDA 2750

B. SANAA 1296

1. USMTM HAS GIVEN US OUTLINE OF TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT
NEEDED TO MODERNIZE AND "WESTERNIZE" YEMENI AIR FORCE AS
WORKED OUT JOINTLY WITH RSAF. USMTM PROPOSES PACKAGE
TOTALLING \$117 MILLION BROKEN UP AS FOLLOWS (FIGURES IN
MILLIONS OF DOLLARS):

A. 20 F-5E'S WITH SPARES AND SUPPORT EQUIPMENT--75.0.

SECRET

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B. 4 F-5B'S WITH SPARES AND SUPPORT EQUIPMENT--15.0.

SECRET

C. 6 AB-205 HELICOPTERS WITH SPARES AND SUPPORT EQUIPMENT--3.0.

D. 6 F-27'S WITH SPARES AND SUPPORT EQUIPMENT--10.5.

E. 3 AR-1 RADARS WITH SPARES, SUPPORT EQUIPMENT AND ASSOCIATED COMMUNICATIONS--7.5.

F. MUNITIONS PACKAGE--2.0.

G. TRAINING--4.0.

USMTM EMPHASIZES THAT PRECEDING FIGURES ARE ONLY ESTIMATES BASED ON EXPERIENCE WITH SIMILAR TYPES OF EQUIPMENT AND DO NOT, OF COURSE, PROVIDE DETAILED PLANNING AS TO HOW PROGRAM OF THIS MAGNITUDE COULD BE UNDERTAKEN. PRESUMABLY PROGRAM HAS BEEN SENT TO SULTAN BY HIS STAFF AND WE MAY EXPECT HIS COMMENTS BEFORE LONG. (IN PASSING, EMBASSY WONDERS IF SIMPLER F-5A, IF AVAILABLE, MIGHT NOT BE MORE APPROPRIATE AIRCRAFT FOR YEMEN.)

2. WITH REFERENCE TO UAE AMBASSADOR SUWIDI'S INTEREST IN TRANSPORT HELICOPTERS FOR YAR (REF B), USMTM BELIEVES THAT INDEPENDENT HELICOPTER PROGRAM FOR YAR NOT FEASIBLE AT PRESENT. HELICOPTERS COSTLY AND COMPLICATED AND--SHORT OF FULL CONTRACTOR SUPPORT--EXCEED YEMENIS' MAINTENANCE CAPABILITIES. (SAG'S OWN HELICOPTER PROGRAM IS NOT CONSIDERED SATISFACTORY OR SUCCESSFUL.) THEY HAVE, HOWEVER, BEEN INCLUDED IN PROPOSED LONG-RANGE EQUIPMENT PACKAGE BECAUSE OF INSISTENT YEMENI REQUEST, SAG ITSELF HAS ONLY TEN AB-205'S FOLLOWING TRANSFER OF TWO TO OMAN IN APRIL, AND WE DO NOT BELIEVE THERE ANY LIKELIHOOD THAT ANY REMAINING AB-205'S WOULD BE TRANSFERRED TO YEMEN.

THACHER END QUOTE. ROGE

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